



7:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Pilch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Barnes, Maass, and Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid

Absent: Mayor Nason

3. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

3-1. Certificate of Recognition – Stephanie Sala, Toy Retailer of the Year

Council Member Maass presented a Certificate of Recognition to Stephanie Sala.

3-2. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Graduation

Firefighter Mike Raab, Lieutenant James Berry, and Vice Mayor McQuaid presented certificates to CERT graduates.

4. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

5-1. Minutes, May 6, 2019

Staff recommendation: Approve

5-2. Ratification of Payroll

1. Payroll Period 4/26/2019; Net Payroll: \$316,700.58; Taxes, Benefits, Withholdings: \$ 314,524.09; Total: \$ 631,224.67

2. Payroll Period 5/10/2019; Net Payroll: \$319,596.43; Taxes, Benefits, Withholdings: \$ 315,547.52; Total: \$ 635,143.95

Staff recommendation: Ratify

5-3. Ratification of Bills, Claims and Demands - Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of: \$29,748.89 Includes Wire Transfer (4/30/19), \$554,223.46 (5/3/19), \$403,001.97 (5/10/19)

Staff recommendation: Ratify

5-4. Council Member Pilch appointed Daniel Cardozo to the Community Media Access Committee



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Staff recommendation: Informational

- 5-5. Advisory Body Resignation: Jennifer Radics-Johnson resigned from the Charter Review Committee (McQuaid)

Staff recommendation: Informational

- 5-6. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 5, Section 5-24 of the Albany Municipal Code, Tobacco Retailer License, to Establish Minimum Package Sizes and Minimum Prices for Certain Tobacco Products – Second Reading, Pass-To-Print

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Ordinance No. 2019-05, second reading, pass-to-print, approving amendments to Section 5-24 "Tobacco Retailer License" of the Albany Municipal Code to establish minimum package sizes and minimum prices for certain tobacco products

- 5-7. Allocation of Funds from the Recreation Reserve Fund to Repair Water Damage to the Ocean View Park Portable

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2019-36, authorizing the allocation of \$25,233 from Fund 0002-Recreation Reserves, to pay for an emergency repair of the Ocean View portable

- 5-8. Alameda County Emergency Medical Services First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement and Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Transport Services Agreement

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2019-37, authorizing the City Manager to execute new five-year agreements with the Alameda County Emergency Medical Service Agency for Emergency Medical Services First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Services Agreement and for Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Transport Services Agreement effective July 1, 2019

Mayor Nason asked if anyone wished to remove an item from the consent calendar. No one wished to remove an item.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Maass, seconded by Council Member Pilch, to approve the consent calendar.

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, and Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid

NOES: None

ABSENT: Mayor Nason

Motion carried and so ordered.

6. **GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Mayor McQuaid opened the Good of the City.



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The following persons spoke: Robert Cheasty, Jacqueline Armstrong, Preston Jordan, Jeremiah. A summary of the comments is as follows: Community Development Director Bond testified well on behalf of the City in the lawsuit regarding the Bay Trail; a suggestion for the affordable housing project to be moved to Memorial Park; information regarding the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) software, StreetSaver; the City needs to slow traffic at the intersection of Solano and Jackson and to amend the Municipal Code regarding parked RVs.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS ON STATE/REGIONAL LOCAL MEETINGS ATTENDED AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETINGS/CITY MANAGER REPORT/COMMENTS

Council Member Pilch reported he attended meetings of the League of Women Voters and East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) and participated in Bike to Work Day and Bike About Town.

Council Member Maass reported he attended the Mayor's Conference with Vice Mayor McQuaid and a meeting of the Waste Management Board.

Vice Mayor McQuaid reported she attended the first Business Resiliency workshop, the special CERT workshop, the Alta Bates Task Force meeting with Mayor Nason, and the Rotary Club's tree planting, and met with the new Librarian.

City Manager Almaguer reported the CERT team will hold a workshop regarding emergency preparedness on May 29. The next Bike About Town is scheduled for June 14. Bike-In Movie Night featuring "Pee Wee's Big Adventure" will be held Friday. Play Like a Girl movie night is May 30, and the Play Like a Girl decathlon is scheduled for June 2. The Art Committee is accepting applications for the 2020 Community Center gallery through August 20. Over the summer, the Public Works Department will replace a sewer line along Solano Avenue and make road repairs throughout the City. The East Bay Municipal Utility District (MUD) will be paving Santa Fe and Ramona. The renovation of the Memorial Park bathroom should be complete by the end of May.

8. PRESENTATION

8-1. Review of Advisory Body Work Plans

Staff recommendation: that the Council:

1. Receive presentations regarding the work plans developed by the Economic Development Committee, Climate Action Committee, and the Social & Economic Justice Commission
2. Provide any comments or direction regarding the proposed work plans
3. Approve work plans for implementation by the Advisory Bodies

City Clerk Anne Hsu presented the staff report.

Robert Cheasty, Economic Development Committee (EDC) Member, reported recent initiatives and accomplishments include preparation and implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Plan. The EDC plans to continue implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Plan, inform marketing and outreach materials, assist with a business survey, encourage art in commercial spaces, and recruit new businesses.



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A summary of Council comments is as follows: a suggestion to add consideration of possible zoning changes along San Pablo Avenue.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Barnes, seconded by Council Member Pilch, to approve the 2019-2021 Economic Development Committee Work Plan as amended.

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, and Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid

NOES: None

ABSENT: Mayor Nason

Motion carried and so ordered.

Samantha Smithies, Climate Action Committee (CAC) Chair, reported the CAC has supported the development and launch of EBCE, assisted in initiating the development of a new Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, and narrowed its goals for the plan. For 2019-2021, the work plan focuses on developing the new Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: perhaps the work plan should include Reach Codes to promote electrification.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Pilch, seconded by Council Member Maass, to approve the 2019-2021 Climate Action Committee Work Plan with specific reference to Reach Codes and electrification..

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, and Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid

NOES: None

ABSENT: Mayor Nason

Motion carried and so ordered.

Bart Grossman, Social & Economic Justice Commission (SEJC) Chair, reported the SEJC has reviewed and evaluated Albany Project HOPE, reviewed progress toward Housing Element policies, participated in development of the Rent Review Program, analyzed and recommended a sugar-sweetened beverage tax, recommended plans for expending revenues from the sugar-sweetened beverage tax, commented regarding efforts to more widely distribute information for low-income and senior tax exemptions, implemented and evaluated a drop-in resource center, and recommended development of a diversity and inclusivity survey and action plan. The SEJC's goals for 2019-2021 include continued review of progress on Housing Element policies, State housing legislation, the Rent Review Program, Albany CARES, and Project HOPE; examination of service needs and supports for aging in place; development of a community survey to identify the concerns and needs of populations; development of an annual Albany diversity report card and impact report; and identification of health and wellness programs funded by the sugar-sweetened beverage tax.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: the work plan is ambitious, a request for data regarding the Rent Review Program, other issues may be more important and relevant than housing legislation; a review of legislation that the League of Cities is not monitoring could be helpful; staff is monitoring legislation; a request for the SEJC to focus on aging in place.



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MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Maass, seconded by Council Member Barnes, to approve the 2019-2021 Social & Economic Justice Commission Work Plan.

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, and Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid

NOES: None

ABSENT: Mayor Nason

Motion carried and so ordered.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10-1. Review and Policy Direction on Draft Solano Avenue Complete Streets Plan

Staff recommendation: that the Council review the draft Solano Avenue Complete Streets Plan and choose one of the options listed below for potential action:

1. Accept the Plan as proposed
2. Accept the Plan as proposed and move forward with improvements that are temporary / short-term / or do not present difficult conflicts with bicycle facility alternatives. Evaluate bicycle facilities on Solano Avenue as part of an update to the bicycle network in an Active Transportation Plan or General Plan update
3. Continue the Plan Preparation to reach consensus regarding bicycle facilities in the Draft Complete Streets Plan

Planning Manager Anne Hersch presented the staff report. The Solano Avenue Complete Streets Plan (Plan) was developed through a 14-month public process. The Plan is intended to serve as an urban design document that provides guidance for future improvements on Solano Avenue between Masonic Avenue and Tulare. The scope of the Plan includes safety improvements, placemaking, and economic development. The Plan is consistent with other adopted City policies and, as drafted, implements current policies. The Active Transportation Plan (ATP) does not identify Solano Avenue as having designated bicycle facilities. The City Council has reviewed the Plan five times since July 2017. The Planning & Zoning Commission has reviewed the Plan twice, the Transportation & Safety Commission five times, the Economic Development Committee and Climate Action Committee three times, the Community Advisory Group three times, and City of Berkeley staff two times. Staff held two public workshops and meetings with the Solano Avenue Association, the Orientation Center for the Blind, and the Albany Strollers and Rollers. On February 28, 2019, the Traffic & Safety Commission recommended the Council approve the Plan with the inclusion of an alternative design. Staff posted the proposed alternative design on a project website and solicited comments from the community advisory group. The draft Plan does not preclude future bicycle improvements on Solano Avenue. There may be an opportunity for the City of Albany to collaborate with the City of Berkeley regarding a Master Revitalization Plan for Solano Avenue. Should the Council choose to continue the Plan preparation, staff will return to the Council with a contract amendment in an amount to be determined.



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Brooke Dubose, Toole Design, reported the Plan focuses on streetscape and mobility improvements along Solano Avenue. The Plan contains existing conditions and recommendations.

Joel Shaffer, Toole Design, advised that themes of the conceptual design are safety and accessibility, streetscape and placemaking, parking, and stormwater management. The Plan recommends reducing curb radii at corners, adding bulb-outs and crossing islands, realigning and upgrading curb ramps, installing colored and textured paving material for on-street parking, installing crosswalks with high-visibility markings, removing and relocating parking signs, site furnishings and other obstructions within 30 feet of crossings, installing rectangular rapid-flashing beacons, improvement bicycle connections across Solano Avenue, simplifying intersection configurations and realigning irregular or complex intersections, and installing pedestrian-scale lighting. Bulb-outs can be programmed with place-making elements such as benches, landscaping, parklets, and public art. The Plan includes areas for co-locating transit stops and pedestrian amenities, spaces for landmark or gateway features, open spaces, accessible parking spaces, and flex spaces. The Plan proposes to maintain the existing stormwater management system and recommends installing valley gutters between travel and parking lanes.

Ms. Dubose indicated the Plan recommends sidewalk repair and improvement, opportunities for bicycle access and parking, and consideration of new curbside uses such as back-in angled parking. The implementation strategy involves a phased approach. A number of safety improvements could be implemented in the near term and could be compatible with a longer-term vision for the corridor. The Bicycle Facility Options Memo reviews four options for bicycle facilities in addition to the option proposed by the Transportation & Safety Commission. Bicycle facilities should provide physical separation from traffic, equivalent facilities in both directions, and a direct path of travel; minimize vehicle conflicts; and maximize visibility of bicyclists. The existing curb line of San Pablo Avenue poses a challenge to constructing bicycle facilities. A bike lane in the road could be implemented without significant cost or parking loss; however, it would be a high-stress facility. If the Council wishes further analysis of bicycle facility options, Ms. Dubose recommended conducting a parking count and analysis of impacts on other modes of travel.

The following persons spoke: Robert Cheasty, Aaron Priven, Ken McCroskey, Allen Cain, Carrie Schulze, Robert Abrams, Carly Dennett, Ann Freeman, Jennifer Hansen-Romero, Sophie Hahn, Gail Carby Smith, Bryan Marten, Doug Donaldson, Harry Pruyn, Tom Newton, Tod Abbott, Britt Tanner, Amy Smolens, David Arkin, Preston Jordan, David Peattie, Harry Chomsky, Stephanie Sala, Brian Parsley.

A summer of comments is as follows: support for continued review of options; the Plan emphasizes car use and does not exemplify a Complete Streets plan; the Plan does not improve sidewalk safety because it does not recommend on-street bicycle facilities; the Solano Avenue Association finds merit in the Strollers and Rollers' proposal; pedestrians are very important to the vitality of Solano Avenue; concern that the draft Plan will drastically and negatively affect businesses on Solano; businesses need parking on Solano Avenue for their customers; bicycle facilities and bike racks often conflict with handicap access to the sidewalk; support for the draft Plan; hopes that the City of Berkeley and the City of Albany can jointly develop a cohesive plan for Solano Avenue; the draft Plan proposes many good improvements for Solano Avenue; support for back-in angled parking on Solano; opposition to the bicycle options; the public process was good, but the resulting Plan is not good; Solano Avenue should be safer for bicyclists; the Plan does not comply with the



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ATP, and option 5 does not reduce parking; the residents of the Thousand Oaks neighborhood are interested in the Plan; a one-way cycle track would be an attractive nuisance.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Pilch, seconded by Council Member Barnes, to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m.

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, and Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid

NOES: None

ABSENT: Mayor Nason

Motion carried and so ordered.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: Solano Avenue is not a great location for a bike path of the type envisioned by Strollers and Rollers; reducing parking on Solano to install a bike track will cause cars to park on side streets; support for the draft Plan and closing the grant; increased use of electronic vehicles of all types could affect the need for a bicycle lane and/or the type of bicycle lane appropriate for Solano Avenue; the draft Plan has some good ideas; support for continuing the discussion of options as the community has not reached a consensus; the width of Solano Avenue may not accommodate a low-stress bike lane; parking is probably not the primary reason people shop on Solano; with new modes of transit, parking may not be a concern in the future; a suggestion to direct staff to utilize any remaining grant funding to examine issues raised by the community and to join the City of Berkeley's study of Solano Avenue; the Council has time to consider options; a suggestion to schedule a study session for discussion of revisions to the Plan.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Barnes, seconded by Council Member Maass, to extend the meeting to 11:15 p.m.

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, and Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid

NOES: None

ABSENT: Mayor Nason

Motion carried and so ordered.

A summary of further Council comments is as follows: support for staff recommendation 1, a suggestion to continue Plan preparation to reach consensus; opposition to staff recommendation 1 as it would make the Plan a plan of record and a City document; opposition to accepting the Plan; a suggestion to direct staff to continue Plan preparation and to return with revisions discussed during the meeting; no one has suggested Solano Avenue be a priority cycle facility; the suggestion is to increase bicycle safety along Solano; support for using the language "bicycle improvements" or "safety improvements for cyclists;"

City Attorney Michael Roush suggested the Council could accept the Plan as proposed but move forward with improvements.

Planning Manager Hersch noted the Council wishes to identify improvements that can be implemented feasibly in the short term and temporarily and to remove pedestrian refuge islands from the Plan.



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MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Pilch, seconded by Council Member Maass, to continue Plan preparation with staff to bring back refinements to the draft Plan as directed by the Council.

AYES: Council Members Maass and Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid

NOES: Council Member Barnes

ABSENT: Mayor Nason

Motion carried and so ordered.

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. OTHER BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12-1. Upcoming City Events

@theCenter – Bike-in-Movie Night, Friday, May 24, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Albany Community Center

Play Like a Girl, Sunday, June 2, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Memorial Park

12-2. Upcoming City Meetings

Library Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

Traffic & Safety Commission, Thursday, May 23, 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

City Council, Monday, June 3, 7:30 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

12-3. City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2019 in observance of Memorial Day

13. ADJOURNMENT

11:17 p.m. There being no further business before the City Council, Vice Mayor McQuaid adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Anne Hsu, City Clerk.

Peggy McQuaid
Vice Mayor

Attest:

Anne Hsu, City Clerk